

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: RAND STUDY "RATIONALIZAING NATOS DEFENSE POSTURE: BY  
R.W. KOMER ET AL.

SUMMARY: WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED SUBJECT STUDY AND CONSIDER  
IT A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SEARCH FOR WAYS TO GAIN MORE  
NATO DEFENSE CAPABILITY IN A TIME OF ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS. AFTER  
SOME MODIFICATIONS, MOSTLY TO CHAPTER IV, WE PROPOSE TO TABLE THE  
STUDY IN THE EWG AS ANOTHER SOURCE OF IDEAS FOR ALLIES AND NATO TO  
EXAMINE. END SUMMARY

1. WE BELIEVE THAT THE RAND STUDY, "RATIONALIZING NATO'S DEFENCE  
POSTURE", WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATE VALUE TO NATO IN STIMULATING  
PLANS TO GAIN GREATER EFFECTVENESS WITHIN EXISTING BUDGETS. WE  
PROPOSE TO TABLE THE STUDY IN NATO EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP AD70  
WITH A COVER LETTER INDICATING THAT IT DOES NOT REPRESENT AGREED  
US POLICY, BUT IDEAS FOR ALLIES AND NATO TO EXAMINE.

2. WE SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON RELEASE STUDY AS A NATO SECRET  
SECRET

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DOCUMENT WITH CHANGES AS FOLLOWS:

A. DROP REFERENCES TO UK RESISTANCE TO AAFCE. THIS RESISTANCE  
HAS DECREASED TO A LARGE EXTENTN, AND MANY UK OFFICERS ARE MAING

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AAFCE. WE PREFER NOT TO RE-OPEN THIS WOULD, AND RECOMMEND DELETIONS OR REVISIONS ON PAGES XI, XIII AND 91-93.

B. ELIMINATE THE PROPOSAL FOR THE US TO ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE AWACS TO NATO, IN EXCHANGE FOR SPECILIZATION TRADE-OFFS. THE NATO AWACS PROGRAM SHOWS MUCH PROMISE AND THE DISCUSSION IN THE STUDY COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR CURRENT EFFORTS HERE. (PAGES XIII, XXIX, 96, 125-127).

C. REVISE THE PROPOSAL TO SCRAP THE MRCA PROGRAM TO SUGGEST A MIX OF AIRCRAFT (WITH THE MRCA IN THE LONG RANGE ATTACK ROLE) RATHER THAN AND OUT AND OUT ABANDONMENT OF MRCA AT THIS STAGE. THE MRCA HAS BECOME THE OBJECT OF EXTREME NATIONAL PRIDE AND A SYMBOL OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE CAPABILITY TO SEVERAL KEY NATIONS. MOST OF THE DEVELOPMENT MONEY HAS ALREADY BEEN SPENT. THE US HAS NOTHING TO GAIN BY PRESSING THIS ISSUE, BUT DOES STAND TO SUFFER A BACKLASH IF WE EVEN REMOTELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEMISE OF THE MRCA (PAGES XIV, XXX, 129-131). SEE USNATO 2780.

D. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSALS IN CHAPTER IV TO DIVERT RESOURCES AWAY FROM PROTECTION OF SEA LANES COULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE EFFECTS ON PROMISING NATO NAVAL PROGRAMS SUCH AS THOSE OF ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS. THIS ASPECT OF CHAPTER IV IS DRIVEN, WE BELIEVE, BY TOO NARROW A SHORT-WAR SCENARIO WHICH SEEMS COUNTER TO THE THRUST OF US INITIATIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF IMPROVING NATO'S CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY. NATO NEEDS MORE THAN A NAVAL "HEDGE", AS THE STUDY ADVOCATES. NATO NATIONS ARE UNIQUELY DEPENDENT ON SUPPLY BY SEA. A SUCCESSFUL SOVIET ACTION AT SEA, EVEN OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA, WOULD OFFER THE SOVIETS AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY GREAT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE. WE BELIEVE THAT CHAPTER IV SHOULD BE RECAST TO CONCENTRATE ON THE SEVERAL CONTRADICTORY (IF STILL PROVOCATIVE) PROPOSALS BEGINNING PAGE 154 WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS WHICH ALSO SHOULD BE DROPPED FROM THIS CHAPTER:

(1) THE PROPOSALS FOR ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE OPEN OCEAN CAPABILITIES (PAGES 154-155, 183-186).

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(2) THE CONTENTION THAT NATO SHOULD REMOVE ITS ASW "ALBATROSS". INSTEAD, WE BELIEVE NATO SHOULD RENEW ITS EFFORTS AND CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ITS ASW CAPABILITY. (PAGES 156-166).

3. IN OUR VIEW THE STUDY OFFERS MANY SUGGESTIONS WHICH WILL AID IN FOCUSING ALLIED THOUGHT ON PROBLEMS AND NECESSARY CORRECTIVE ACTIONS. SANTIZATION, IN OUR VIEW SHOULD NOT REMOVE PROVOCATIVE IDEAS FROM THE STUDY JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE UNPROVEN. THE OBJECTIVE, RATHER IMPORTANT THING IS TO STIMULATE THINKING AND THE RECOGNITION THAT OPPORTUNITIES DO EXIST TO IMPROVE NATO DEFENSE IN SIGNIFICANT MEASURES.

4. WE ALSO SUGGESTED SECDEF SEND THE STUDY TO MOD'S TOGETHER WITH A

SUITABLE DISCLAIMER VUT ALSO WITH A STATEMENT IMPLYING THAT THE  
US IS CAREFULLY EXAMINING THE PROPOSALS IT CONTAINS. WE COULD THN  
INTRODUCE STUDY INTO EWG DELIBERATIONS A SHORT TIME LATER.  
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